

Today's Bible Verses

15 DECEMBER 2018

Today's 3 verses, read in order, describe Christ's driving the money changers out of the Temple.

a "Jesus went into the temple complex and drove out all those buying and selling in the temple."

Matthew 21:12 (1 of 3 for Dec 15)

b "He overturned the money changers' tables and the chairs of those selling doves."

Matthew 21:12 (2 of 3 for Dec 15)

c [Jesus:] "It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you are making it a den of thieves!"

Matthew 21:13 (3 of 3 for Dec 15)

(ALL VERSES ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE, HCSB.)

The Bible verses in the box above are this day's verses which I selected for my daily posting on both [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

SEE ALSO:

ChristOurPassover.org

ADDITIONAL VERSES BIBLE STUDY:

THIS SERIES DEDICATED TO MY WIFE, ADRIANNE

CHRISTIAN
Baptism
βάπτισμα

*There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope at your calling — one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

PART 13

HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD
BIBLE

COMMENTARY

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the spiritual realm.

In that state He also went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of **Noah** while an ark was being prepared. In it a few — that is, eight people — were saved through water.

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 3:17-21

For as many of you as have been **baptized** into Christ have put on Christ like a garment. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are **Abraham's** seed, heirs according to the promise.

GALATIANS 3:27-29

Now I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, all passed through the sea, and all were **baptized** into **Moses** in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-4

We have made our way in this study to the point where the Christian rite of baptism has been established by John; magnified and sanctified by Christ's life, death, and resurrection; and is being taken out by Christ's apostles to "all the nations." It is the time of the great epistles, or letters, to the various churches (mostly Gentile), giving guidance and teaching about salvation and the Christian "Way."

Not surprisingly, baptism came up for discussion in several instances in those letters, and today and tomorrow, that's what we will examine. There are three sets of verses where Peter and Paul teach a broader, deeper understanding of baptism by referencing people and events of the **Old Testament**.

Peter had been a fisherman, so he knew water and boats. So is it surprising that he went as far back as Noah to demonstrate the concept of salvation? God waited patiently, Peter asserts, while the ark was being built, in order to save 8 people "through water." In the boat, they went into the waters and God later "resurrected" them from there to a new life. Paul likens baptism to the story of Noah. It is not, he asserted, merely for removing dirt from the body as in taking a bath, but rather it is "the pledge of a good conscience toward God." By going through baptism, we vow to God a right mind toward Him who will resurrect us.

In writing to the Galatians, Paul called on the memory of the Patriarch Abraham. He told them that by going through baptism (and the spiritual components of it, as well), we "put on Christ like a garment." We have chosen that the Son of God is the "outfit" we want to wear before the world. And all who wear it are likewise united in the family of God — so much so that all who are Christ's are "Abraham's seed" (including Gentiles!) and "heirs according to the promises" made to him.

Paul also evokes the watery nature of baptism (an obvious and very good metaphor) in his first letter to the church at Corinth. All of those who participated in the Exodus "were baptized into Moses, in the cloud and in the sea." It doesn't take much imagination to think of the parting of the Sea and the Israelites walking into and out of the Sea as comparable to the rite of baptism. And further, the Sea, just like the waters of baptism, washed away the "sins" (of Egypt) that beset the Israelites when the waters fell back and drowned Pharaoh's army.

(Note also Paul's almost throw-away line at the end, where he imparts the major fact that the deity we have come to know as Christ was there and led and fed the Israelites during those 40 years. This ceases to be surprising, when you remember that Christ Himself told us that "Before Abraham was, I AM.")

There is a continuity of metaphors and symbols that God uses throughout Scripture to teach us and provide memory aids for us. Have we noticed how many of them are related back to and reflect the greatest Event in the history of the created universe — the Son of God's death, burial, and resurrection?

Everything before that Event pointed toward it. Everything since that Event was indelibly changed by it.

The rite of baptism, which is so completely tied to that Event, is one of our most vivid reminders, if we will let it be so.

MORE ON THIS BIBLE STUDY OF BAPTISM

*Now I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, all passed through the sea, and **all were baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.*

1 Corinthians 10:1–4

The rite (sacrament) of baptism is one of the most fundamental and unique tenets of Christianity there is. And yet, its origins are shrouded in mystery. Where did it come from? Did it begin with the ministry of John the Baptist? If not, from where did he get it? Some have said it is a modification of the Jewish tradition of *tevilah*, or full-body immersion for religious dedication purposes. But since scholars cannot agree on when that began, it is difficult to know whether Christian baptism inspired the *tevilah*, or vice versa, or neither.

As has been our practice all along, this **Additional Verses Bible Study** will focus solely on Scripture (OT and NT, where applicable) to learn what is said there about the subject we are studying – in this case, baptism. There are 43 single verses or extended passages in which some form of the Greek word *baptisma* is found, and we will examine every one of them.

USAGE OF THE NAME OF GOD IN THESE STUDIES

As I do in all my Daily and Additional Verses, whenever an OT passage contains the four-letter Name of God יהוה (transliteration: YHVH or YHWH), I change the translation from The LORD to Yahweh. (Yahweh seems to be the most common transliteration of the name, but I have recently come across some persuasive arguments that the name was originally Yehovah.)

I don't do this for reasons of doctrine (*or because I think my prayers won't be heard if I don't pronounce God's name correctly!*) – but simply because in the original Hebrew, **the word is a proper name**. (See Exodus 3:15 below.)

And as such, I believe to read the text in a way that uses a proper name (and not a title, like Lord) conveys more accurate information. Paul told us that “All Scripture is inspired by God,” and so why wouldn't we want to read it the way He inspired it? While it is true that the correct pronunciation of YHWH has been lost, “Yahweh” is probably our era's most commonly used equivalent.

God also said to Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.”

Exodus 3:15

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable

*for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (HCSB)

The additional verses which are below the Daily Verses will only appear in these emails (which are also posted on some websites). The current series (began 31 October 2018) of these “Additional Verses” takes the Scriptural words from the great choral work *Messiah* by Handel and uses them as a springboard to examine the context of the birth, ministry, character, death, and Kingdom of Jesus the Christ.

If you know of others who would like to receive these Daily Verses emails – free of charge, of course – just have them send me their email address. I will never allow anyone but me to see or to use the email addresses entrusted to me, and I will use them only for the purpose of these Daily Verses. Promise.

–GBP2

How Did All of This Get Started?

In early 2017, I wrote a computer app that “knows” all 66 books and 1189 chapters which the Bible comprises. When run, it selects a totally random chapter in the Bible, and keeps track of the ones that have been selected. That way, I can work my way through all 1189 chapters, without the app ever giving me a duplicate.

I first used this for Bible study, and later decided that choosing one or more verses from each chapter would make a good series of Facebook posts.

I began posting them on December 8, 2017, and have been doing it daily ever since. I later added them to my Twitter account, and am now sending them by email, for those who prefer to get them this way.

TO UNSUBSCRIBE:

If you do not wish to receive these daily emails, please feel free any time to hit “Reply” and tell me. I know that mailbox clutter is greatly annoying, and that is certainly not my intention for this!



Research for this publication was assisted by Faithlife Corporation's [Logos Bible Software 7](#).

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